

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER, 2009

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Lon Winberry, Vice President; Mr. Jack Angelo, Member; Mr. Douglas Perry, Director/Secretary; and Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also a few guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.

At this time a motion was made by J. Angelo to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2009 regular meeting as written. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director reported that he had still heard nothing with regard to Riverside being returned to the Park Commission. He also stated he thought that might be because the property may be involved with the fire station project at Welch Playground. Mr. Black, Mr. Foltz, and Mr. Angelo all agreed that the property may indeed be involved with that project. Mr. Angelo stated he would try and check with Councilmember Smith.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director presented the Board with pictures he had taken for possible use in a brochure. He stated now that schools were in, he would be following up on Member Angelo's suggestion in trying to find a college student that would do the layout work as a school project to try and save some money on that part of the printing expense.

The Director told the Board that he would like suggestions from them as to what information they would like to see in the brochure as decisions had to be made as to size, colors, finish, and weight of paper. The Board suggested a few ideas.

3. Possible Name Change for Playground F – The Director presented the Board and Ms. Sarver of the O.U.R. Neighborhood Group a suggestion for a new name for the playground and a possible sign layout Ms. Sarver stated she liked the suggestion, but would like to take it back to her group for review. The issue was then tabled.

At this point President Black opened the floor to the guests present to see if they had any issues to present to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Nadine Sawaya, Director of the Canton Joint Recreation District, had several issues she wanted to discuss with the Board.

Ms. Sawaya reported that due to Willig Field being improved, the use there had increased. Summer leagues had increased from 70 teams to 107, and fall leagues had increased from 32 teams to 54. She also reported that she had arranged, with the help of the Park staff, for three floodlights to be installed on the parking lot by AEP.

Ms. Sawaya told the Board that the Friends of the Recreation Levy would like to hold all night softball tournaments on two weekends in October as a fund raiser for the upcoming Recreation levy. The Board had no objections and told Ms. Sawaya to proceed with her plans.

Ms. Sawaya asked the Board to consider a rule to ban dogs at Willig field as they continue to be a problem during games. The Board discussed the issue, and a motion was then made to ban dogs at Willig Field by J. Angelo. A second was provided by L. Winberry, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Director Sawaya stated she was planning on putting in some playground equipment at Willig Field next year for the little kids. She also stated she was seeking cost estimates for a formal sign at Willig as we were getting more and more out of towners coming to play there, and the site needed a good location sign.

The last issue Ms. Sawaya brought to the Board was the costs of operating the Willig Field facility. She stated since the facility was getting so much use the electric bills were climbing. She requested permission to sell spots for sponsorship banners as a way to help pay for the expenses of operation.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by A. Black to allow the Canton Joint Recreation District to sell spots for sponsorship banners Willig Field as long as they contained nothing related to alcohol, tobacco, or other things that would be inappropriate to a family friendly facility. In addition, the Board reserves the right to withdraw this approval at the end of each session. A second was provided by J. Angelo, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Black brought up the Park System budget as the Mayor had told him that he would layoff every Park System employee rather than layoff a policeman or fireman. The Mayor also told Mr. Black that the Park System was one of only a couple of departments where the budget was up.

Mr. Foltz presented the Board with information from the City Auditor's website that showed that the Park System budget has been under the 2002 budget every year between 2002 and 2008.

Mr. Black just wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the Park budgets over the last few years.

Member Angelo had to leave the meeting at this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

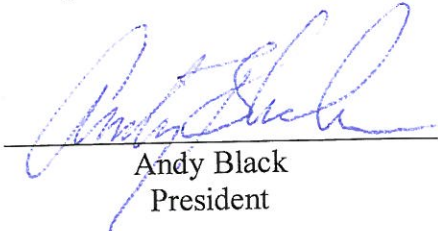
1. Name and signage for trail along West Branch of Nimishillen Creek – The Director informed the Board that he had not as yet received a proposed sign design for the new trail in the Park System. He did propose “West Branch Trail” as a name.

Mr. Winberry suggested using the name of one of the war veterans who were killed in action.

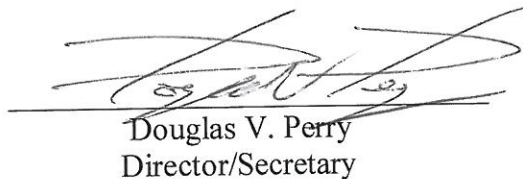
It was discussed that it would be difficult to decide which one of them to use.

President Black asked the Director to check with City Engineering and Stark Parks to see if a design was available to review.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas V. Perry
Director/Secretary